

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1 and 2. These sheets, which include Figs. 1 and 2, replaces the original sheets including Figs. 1 and 2.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet(s)

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 2 are pending in this application. By this amendment, the drawings are amended; Claim 1 is amended; Claim 3 is canceled; and no claims are added herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Figures 1 and 2 were objected to; Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,763,971 to Takahata in view 20030104246 to Watanabe; and Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Takahata and Watanabe and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,369,476 to Sung.

With respect to the objection to the drawings, Figures 1 and 2 are amended by the present amendment. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

With respect to the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), these rejections are respectfully traversed. Specifically, the applied art does not teach or suggest the superconductive magnetic bearing being characterized in that the rotatable bearing portion comprises the annular permanent magnet unit and an annular yoke adjacent to the permanent magnet unit and opposed to the superconductor unit, the permanent magnet unit comprises a plurality of permanent magnet members arranged in superposed layers with an insulating layer provided between each adjacent pair of magnet members, and the yoke comprises a plurality of yoke members made of a magnetic material and arranged in superposed layers with an insulating layer interposed between each adjacent pair of yoke members, as recited in Claim 1.

When yokes are subjected to varying magnetic fields while rotating with the rotary portion, eddy currents are produced on the yokes. If the yokes each comprise yoke members of magnetic material as arranged in superposed layers with an insulating layer provided between each adjacent pair of yoke members, the eddy currents to be produced on the yokes diminish to reduce the rotation loss to be otherwise produced by the eddy currents. Thus, combined with the advantageous effect to reduce the rotation loss because of the construction that the permanent magnet unit comprises a plurality of permanent magnet members arranged in superposed layers with an insulating layer provided between each adjacent pair of magnet members, examples of the invention exhibit the significant rotation-loss reducing effect.

The Office Action asserts in item 5 that Takahata discloses “the yoke comprising a plurality of yoke members 6 made of a magnetic material (col. 4. line 61) and arranged superposed layers.” However, there is no teaching or suggestion for the features of the yoke including a plurality of yoke members made of a magnetic material and arranged in superposed layers. For example, Column 4, lines 59-65 of Takahata discusses that the rotatable member 1 is pushed toward one direction with a force greater than the pinning force, the member 1 stops upon moving to a position to which it is forcibly shifted from the original position. Thus, the member 1 is restrained in the shifted position. This is due to the pinning force peculiar to the superconductor 2 of the foregoing structure. There is no discussion of the features recited in independent Claim 1 discussed above.

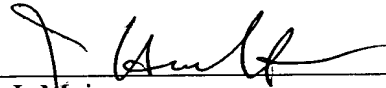
Watanabe does not make up for the deficiency of Takahata discussed above, nor does the Office Action particularly assert as such. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Takahata in view Watanabe is respectfully requested.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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